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REMARKS

Claims 1-25, 34-41, and 50-51 were pending in this Application. All claims were allowed. By this amendment, claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-25, 34-41, and 50-51 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 9, 10, 18, and 34 are independent claims.

Please enter the above amendment in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. Applicants are permitted to make an amendment limiting the scope of the claims under MPEP § 714.16. The supervisory patent examiner is permitted to approve such amendments.

Applicants hereby respectfully request that the supervisory patent examiner consider this Amendment and enter the Amendment before the patent issues.

The scope of claims 1 and 9 has been narrowed slightly in order to better place the claims in compliance with recent court decisions. These amendments were not presented earlier because the interpretation of the patent law has changed recently. No new matter has been added and no new search is required. No additional search or examination is required because the claims have only been narrowed in scope. Because the claims were already allowable, the amended claims having narrower scope are also allowable. Therefore, the Amendment should be entered and the claims allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

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Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that the Amendment should not be entered, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

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